

Mr. MERRICK. I have not stated a proposition. I was discussing the question before the Convention, and I have a right to discuss it.

Mr. BOWIE. I call for the decision of the Chair.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thinks that the discussion is not properly in order.

Mr. MERRICK. If I had moved to postpone it—

Mr. GWINN. I call the gentleman to order on the ground of irrelevancy.

The PRESIDENT decided that the remarks of the gentleman were not in order, until after the first section of the bill had been read. No motion could be entertained until then.

Mr. MERRICK. Can I not argue the merits of the proposition?

The PRESIDENT. Not on the motion to postpone. The rules are peremptory. If the gentleman will state his proposition, then the Chair will decide as to whether he is in order. If he states no proposition, he is out of order.

Mr. MERRICK. I have no proposition to make. (Laughter.) I was discussing the bill before the Convention.

The PRESIDENT. Has the gentleman heard it read?

Mr. MERRICK. I do not want to hear it read, sir. I wrote it. (Laughter.)

Mr. WEBER. I call for the reading of the first section.

Mr. MERRICK. I am very willing to have it read, but the gentleman has no right to call for its reading, while I have the floor.

The PRESIDENT decided the gentleman from Charles out of order.

Mr. MERRICK then took his seat.

The Clerk then read the first section of the bill.

Mr. BOWIE moved that the House adjourn. He thought nothing could be done to-day on the subject before the Convention. Let them adjourn with the distinct understanding of taking up this bill to-morrow. The chairman of the committee, (Mr. Merrick,) would then be entitled to the floor, or if he did not want it, any other gentleman who might desire it, could occupy it.

Before the question was put, Mr. B. withdrew his motion.

Mr. SPENCER made some remarks, which will hereafter be published.

Mr. MORGAN said that he had been reported as absent on that day. He would say that from the first commencement of the Convention, up to a fortnight ago, he had never left its sittings for one day. He believed his name had been recorded upon every vote. About two weeks ago he left the Convention to attend the Court in St. Mary's county, having paired off with the gentleman from Allegany, [Mr. Fitzpatrick,] and they both returned to their seats very nearly the same time. As they were opposite in views, so far as the effect his vote had influence here, he might not have been considered absent a day. He said this much in justice to himself, as he believed the fact of his having paired off, had not been noted on the journal during his absence. He had nothing to say of the publication in the

newspapers; it was a matter of no concern to him if his absence was noted daily by every paper in the State.

Mr. JENIFER said that the President of the Convention was absent by permission of the Convention, and had been detained longer than he had expected, in consequence of an accident. He learned that his name was noticed among the absentees. He hoped his colleague would be considered as not coming under this charge.

Mr. KILGOUR said that his name was also recorded among the absentees. As other gentlemen had explained, he would merely say that his constituents knew how long he had been absent. As for any body else, he did not care one jot.

A motion to adjourn was then made, and disagreed to.

The Convention then proceeded to the consideration of the several reports heretofore made from the committee on representation on that subject, when,

The report of Mr. Merrick, heretofore published, was read.

A motion to adjourn was made and negatived. Yeas 26, nays 40.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, said that as the Convention appeared to be engaged in the very profitable business of calling yeas and nays, he would move that the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick,) be allowed to proceed with his speech. This would occupy their time.

The President said that by unanimous consent the gentleman could proceed with his remarks.

Mr. MERRICK said that he had no speech to make. When he was called to order, he was proceeding to show what he thought would be the most judicious and wise course to pursue for this week. He then intended to submit a motion.

Mr. HOWARD inquired if it was the rule to read the bill by sections, and then take a vote on each section?

The President replied that he understood that to be the rule.

Mr. HOWARD said that his reason for making the inquiry was, that he thought the first section of the bill was unobjectionable, and no one would desire to move an amendment to it. To the second section there would be many amendments offered. He understood that there would be an amendment offered to the second section, by one of the gentleman from Washington, which he thought would meet his approbation. He hoped they would pass over the first section, to which he thought there would be no objection, and then take up the second section. The gentleman from Washington, or any other gentleman who desired to move an amendment, could then do so, when they would have time to reflect upon it, and could come to-morrow-morning prepared to proceed with the subject.

Mr. JENIFER referred to what he considered a want of courtesy toward the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick,) and said that there had scarcely been a bill before the Convention,